

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the transition that occurs when real background noise is replaced by comfort noise in an IP telephone, said IP telephone having a TX unit, said method comprising:

determining, by said TX unit of said IP telephone, whether silence exists;

if silence is detected, then sending, by said TX unit, a first silence indication

[packet] while said TX unit continues to send voice packets, said first silence indication indicating the rate at which the real background noise should be attenuated;

waiting, by said TX unit, for a predetermined amount of time to pass;

sending, by said TX unit, a second silence indication packet after said predetermined amount of time passes;

waiting, by said TX unit, for voice activity to be detected; and

starting, by said TX unit, normal packet activity after said voice activity is detected.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said first silence indication has an indication therein which contains the background noise level sensed by the TX unit.
3. (Cancel) The method of claim 1, wherein said first silence indication contains an indication therein which indicates the rate at which the real background noise should be attenuated.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [3]1, wherein said rate is determined according to the formula $\text{Rate} = \text{Background Noise (dB)} / \text{Time (sec.)}$.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein, said predetermined amount of time comprises an amount of time sufficient for the RX unit to attenuate the real background noise.
6. (Previously Cancelled) The method of claim 5, wherein said predetermined amount of time comprises approximately two seconds.
7. (Previously Amended) A method for reducing the transition that occurs when real background noise is replaced by comfort noise in an IP telephone, said IP telephone having a RX unit, said method comprising:

waiting, by said RX unit, for a first silence indication packet to be received while said RX unit is receiving incoming packets, said first silence identification packet providing a rate at which incoming packets are to be attenuated;

attenuating, by said RX unit, said incoming packets when said first silence identification packet is received from a TX unit, said attenuation occurring at said rate provided by said first silence identification packet;

mixing, by said RX unit, comfort noise with said attenuated incoming packets;

waiting, by said RX unit, for a second silence indication packet to be received, said second silence identification packet providing a level at which comfort noise is generated;

generating, by said RX unit, comfort noise at said level responsive to an indication provided by said second silence indication packet;

waiting, by said RX unit, for voice packets to be received from said TX unit;
and

stopping, by said RX unit, the generation of comfort noise and playing voice packets when voice packets are received by said RX unit.

8. (Previously Cancelled) The method of claim 7, wherein said act of attenuation is performed at a rate specified in the first silence indication packet.
9. (Previously Cancelled) The method of claim 7, wherein said act of generating comfort noise is performed at a level contained in a silence indication packet sent by the TX unit.
10. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for reducing the transition that occurs when real background noise is replaced by comfort noise in an IP telephone, said method comprising:

determining, by said TX unit of said IP telephone, whether silence exists;

if silence is detected, then sending, by said TX unit, a first silence indication [packet] while said TX unit continues to send voice packets, said first silence indication indicating a rate at which the real background noise should be attenuated;

waiting, by said TX unit, for a predetermined amount of time to pass;

sending, by said TX unit, a second silence indication packet after said
predetermined amount of time passes;
waiting, by said TX unit, for voice activity to be detected; and
starting, by said TX unit, normal packet activity after said voice activity is
detected.

11. (Original) The program storage device of claim 10, wherein said first silence indication has an indication therein which contains the background noise level sensed by the TX unit.
12. (Cancel) The program storage device of claim 10, wherein said first silence indication contains an indication therein which indicates the rate at which the real background noise should be attenuated.
13. (Currently Amended) The program storage device of claim [12]10, wherein said rate is determined according to the formula $\text{Rate} = \text{Background Noise (dB)} / \text{Time (sec.)}$.
14. (Original) The program storage device of claim 10, wherein, said predetermined amount of time comprises an amount of time sufficient for the RX unit to attenuate the real background noise.
15. (Previously Cancelled) The program storage device of claim 14, wherein said predetermined amount of time comprises approximately two seconds.
16. (Previously Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for reducing the transition that occurs when real background noise is

replaced by comfort noise in an IP telephone having a RX unit, said method comprising:

waiting, by said RX unit, for a first silence indication packet to be received while said RX unit is receiving incoming packets, said first silence identification packet providing a rate at which incoming packets are to be attenuated;

attenuating, by said RX unit, said incoming packets when said first silence identification packet is received from a TX unit, said attenuation occurring at said rate provided by said first silence identification packet;

mixing, by said RX unit, comfort noise with said attenuated incoming packets;

waiting, by said RX unit, for a second silence indication packet to be received, said second silence identification packet providing a level at which comfort noise is generated;

generating, by said RX unit, comfort noise at said level responsive to an indication provided by said second silence indication packet;

waiting, by said RX unit, for voice packets to be received from said TX unit;
and

stopping, by said RX unit, the generation of comfort noise and playing voice packets when voice packets are received by said RX unit.

17. (Previously Cancelled) The program storage device of claim 16, wherein said act of attenuation is performed at a rate specified in the first silence indication packet.

18. (Previously Cancelled) The program storage device of claim 16, wherein said act of generating comfort noise is performed at a level contained in a silence indication packet sent by the TX unit.
19. (Currently Amended) An IP telephony apparatus configured for reducing the transition that occurs when real background noise is replaced by comfort noise in an IP telephone, said IP telephony apparatus having a TX unit, said apparatus comprising:
 - means for determining whether silence exists;
 - means for sending a first silence indication [packet] while said TX unit continues to send voice packets if silence is detected, said first silence indication indicating a rate at which the real background noise should be attenuated;
 - means for waiting a predetermined amount of time to pass;
 - means for sending a second silence indication packet after said predetermined amount of time passes;
 - means for waiting for voice activity to be detected; and
 - means for starting normal packet activity after said voice activity is detected.
20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said first silence indication has an indication therein which contains the background noise level sensed by the TX unit.

21. (Cancel) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said first silence indication contains an indication therein which indicates the rate at which the real background noise should be attenuated.
22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [21]19, wherein said rate is determined according to the formula $\text{Rate} = \text{Background Noise (dB)} / \text{Time (sec.)}$.
23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein, said predetermined amount of time comprises an amount of time sufficient for the RX unit to attenuate the real background noise.
24. (Previously Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said predetermined amount of time comprises approximately two seconds.
25. (Previously Amended) An IP telephony apparatus for reducing the transition that occurs when real background noise is replaced by comfort noise in an IP telephone, said IP telephone having a RX unit, said method comprising:

means for waiting, by said RX unit, for a first silence indication packet to be received while said RX unit is receiving incoming packets, said first silence identification packet providing a rate at which incoming packets are to be attenuated;

means for attenuating, by said RX unit, said incoming packets when said first silence identification packet is received from a TX unit, said attenuation occurring at said rate provided by said first silence identification packet;

means for mixing, by said RX unit, comfort noise with said attenuated incoming packets;

means for waiting, by said RX unit, for a second silence indication packet to be received, said second silence identification packet providing a level at which comfort noise is generated;

means for generating, by said RX unit, comfort noise at said level responsive to an indication provided by said second silence indication packet;

means for waiting, by said RX unit, for voice packets to be received from said TX unit; and

means for stopping, by said RX unit, the generation of comfort noise and playing voice packets when voice packets are received by said RX unit.

26. (Previously Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said attenuation is performed at a rate specified in the first silence indication packet.
27. (Previously Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said generating comfort noise is performed at a level contained in a silence indication packet sent by the TX unit.